

ABSTRACT

In an auto-tensioner for engine accessories, a seal member is mounted to a cylinder. A rod slidably extends through the seal member. A return spring biases the rod outwardly. A plunger, connected to the bottom of the rod, is slidably received in a sleeve that is received in the cylinder. The plunger has a passage through which a lower pressure chamber and an upper reservoir chamber communicate. A check valve is provided at the passage. A return chamber is defined under the sleeve to communicate with the reservoir chamber. The return chamber communicates with the pressure chamber via a relief valve through a valve hole in the bottom of the sleeve. The relief valve prevents the pressure in the pressure chamber from rising above a set pressure, thereby prevent excessive increase in belt tension. This allows reduction of oil leak gaps defined between the sliding surfaces of the sleeve.